

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested. Claims 1-7, 10-23, 28-36, 38 and 39-56 are presently active in this case. Claims 1, 17, 33 and 39 amended, and Claims 53-56 added by way of the present amendment.

In the outstanding Official Action, Claims 17-23, 26-36 and 38 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph; Claims 1-7, 10, 12-23, 26, 28-36, 39-46 and 48-52 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,363,434 to Eytchison in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,175,860 to Gaucher; Claims 11, 27, 38 and 47 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Eytchison in view of Gaucher, and further in view of Balasubramaniam et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,803,728.

Regarding the rejection under § 112, second paragraph, Claims 17 and 33 have now been amended to correct the informalities noted in the Office Action. Therefore, the rejection is believed to be overcome.

Turning now to the merits, in order to expedite issuance of a patent in this case, Applicant has amended independent Claims 1, 17, 33 and 39 to clarify the patentable distinctions of the present invention over the cited references. Specifically, Applicant's Claim 1 as amended recites a method for managing electronic devices. The method includes providing a main server including software for managing network resources from a single point of administration, wirelessly connecting a plurality of electronic devices to the main server to create a LAN, and managing the electronic devices using software. Also recited is that the electronic devices include at least one of an appliance, an environmental control device, and an entertainment device. Further, the step of managing includes monitoring management initiating parameters including a sensed parameter for the electronic devices, determining a management action to be performed on an electronic device to be managed

based on the management initiating parameters, the management action changing a condition of the electronic device, and transmitting a management action data packet to the electronic device to be managed in order to initiate the management action.

Thus, Applicant's Claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the management initiating parameter includes at least a sensed parameter.

In contrast, the cited reference to Eytchison discloses a home entertainment network in which a home server manages media services for entertainment devices. As seen in FIG. 3 of Eytchison, the home server 214 includes a resource pool 340 to keep track of entertainment devices, a reservation database 350 to keep track of scheduling of the use of the entertainment devices, and usage logs 360 to keep track of usage of the entertainment devices. Also included in the home server 214 is a software resource manager that determines when and how the entertainment devices are used based on the resource pool, reservation database, usage logs and network conditions such as bandwidth.

In one embodiment, the user application 310 of the home server 214 may also send a request for media services to be delivered at a future time by sending a scheduled event list to the resource manager indicating the time the scheduled event is to be performed, as well as routing paths and device information. The resource manager then performs the requests if the resources are available. The Official Action takes the position that the start time and end time of a scheduled event is a monitoring of a system clock that meets the claim limitation of monitoring management initiating parameters.¹

However, this handling of a scheduled event does not meet the monitoring of a "sensed parameter" as now required by Applicant's independent Claims 1, 17, 33 and 39. As described at the paragraph linking pages 16-17 of the application as originally filed, a sensed parameter is a measurable parameter such as temperature or humidity, for example. There is

¹ See Official Action at page 3, lines 5-6.

no discussion in Eytchison of a scheduled event that involves such sensed parameters. In this regard, to the extent that the Official Action may consider a system clock a sensed parameter, Applicant submits that the above-cited portion of the specification, and indeed the claims themselves as originally filed, make clear that a system clock is a different type of management initiating parameter than a sensed parameter.

The secondary reference to Gaucher is cited only for its teaching of a wireless LAN, and does not correct the deficiencies of Eytchison. As described in the October 20, 2005 amendment, the master computer 12 of Gaucher provides a common interface for the various appliances on the Gaucher network. However, Gaucher in no way discloses monitoring for management initiating parameters (including sensed parameters), determining a management action to be performed or initiating a management action as recited in independent Claims 1, 17, 33 and 39. The cited reference to Balasubramaniam is also cited for teachings in the dependent claims and cannot correct the deficiencies of Eytchison and Gaucher.

Thus, Applicant's independent Claims 1, 17, 33 and 39 patentably define over the cited references. As the remaining pending claims in this case depend from one of the above distinguished independent claims, the remaining dependent claims in this case also patentably define over the cited references.

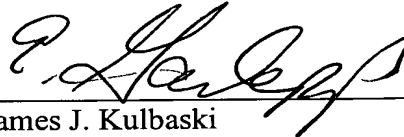
Nevertheless, Applicant has also added new Claims 53-56 to further clarify the patentable distinction over the cited references. Specifically, each of these claims recites that the managing comprises managing an appliance. As noted above, the cited reference to Eytchison discloses a home server for managing entertainment devices only. There is no discussion in Eytchison for managing appliances. Further, as Gaucher does not disclose the management limitations at all, this reference also cannot be said to manage appliances as required by dependent Claims 53-56. Therefore, these claims provide additional basis for patentability over the cited references.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment, no further issues are believed to be outstanding and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance.

An early and favorable action is therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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